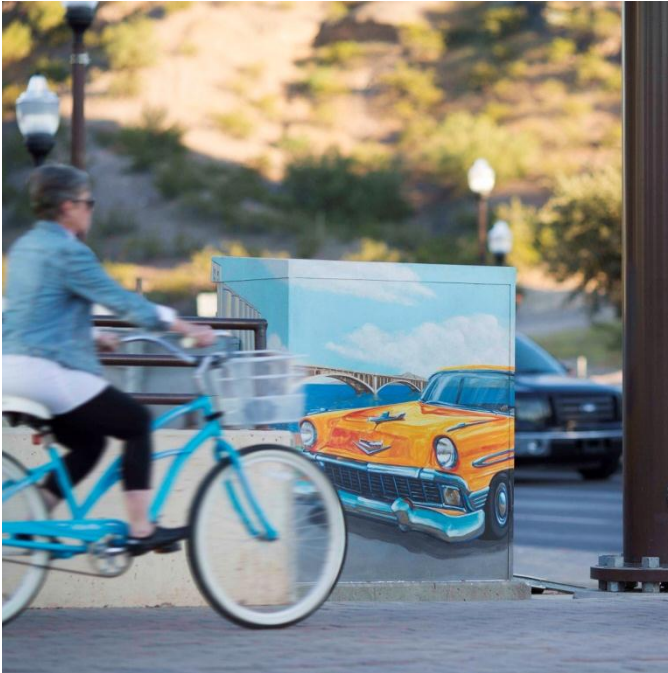




# Tempe Public Art

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## Lucretia Torva

*Tempe Shine, 2012*

Acrylic Paint

**Location:** Northeast corner of  
Rio Salado Parkway  
and Mill Avenue

**Artist Website:**  
[www.TorvaFineArt.com](http://www.TorvaFineArt.com)

Photo: Matt Winkvist

**Description:** The design for the utility box features a 1956 Chevy Bel Air, the quintessential 1950s collector car. Cars from the 1950s conjure up stories and sentiment for many people, such as thinking about the “good old days,” simpler life, first date, first car and more. The artist created the car in orange because the colors for the city of Tempe are orange and blue. This is a happy scene with the driver waving to everyone who passes. The lake and bridges represent travel and freedom and refer to the Native Americans who lived by the welcoming water. The old flour mill represents all the history of the area. The viewer is welcomed by a sign on the east side of the box that includes a reference to the town in Greece for which Tempe is named, as well as a view of the god Apollo playing his lyre. Facing Apollo is a welcoming and musical Kokopelli in honor of the Native American culture.

**Artist biography:** Torva has been painting every subject matter that has crossed her path for 30 years. She favors reflections, refractions and shine, so automobiles are a natural choice for subject matter. She believes that cars represent some of the best in humans: their creativity and ingenuity. In 2000, she decided to become self-employed and has painted all manner of murals, decorative accents, trompe l'oeil and wall finishes. She received both her BFA and MFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Funding:** The project was funded through the City of Tempe Municipal Arts Fund and Downtown Tempe Community.